day. If you have more proposals, send them in and we will follow through immediately with invitation certificates.

Thank you, again — and our very best wishes for a very Merry Christmas!

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER
Leon S. Gay, President; Earle W. Newton, Director.
Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

VHS *News and Notes*
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 JANUARY, 1950 NUMBER 5

GREEN MOUNTAIN ADMIRAL

The Society's second Dewey Memorial diorama will be set up in your Museum the latter part of this month. It depicts State Street of Montpelier in the year 1837 — the birthplace of George Dewey, who led the United States Navy in 1898 to its victory over the Spanish Fleet in Manila Bay without the loss of a single life. In front of the small shingled house stands Dr. Julius Y. Dewey, father of Admiral Dewey, who in 1850 virtually gave up the practice of medicine to become the second president and generally conceded founder of the National Life Insurance Company of Montpelier.

Opposite Dewey's birthplace stands Vermont's second state house, which burned in 1857 and was quite similar to the present state house. (Incidently, Dewey's birthplace was on the site of the new state office building, just completed.)

Shown is an illustration of the Society's first diorama, a memorial to Admiral Dewey, which was dedicated in May, 1948, 50 years from the day that the Spanish fleet was destroyed. Both dioramas were made by the Pitman Studio of Cam-

bridge, Massachusetts, which has constructed similar models for Harvard University, and other museums and institutions.

Tuesday, January 17th, marked the 100th anniversary of the writing of the first policy by the National Life Insurance Company and it is fitting that we of the Society thus participate in the commemoration of the company's first century of service.

THE BUTTER DAIRY

"There are several essential elements necessary to the making of good butter. Good cows, good feed, good salt, a good churn, and a good woman; and it is said by some that the possession of the last would insure the first four."

This is a quotation from page 143 of the First Annual Report of the Vermont State Board of Agriculture, Manufactures and Mining, for the year 1872, as part of an essay read at the meeting of the State Board.

DID YOU KNOW????

That Elisha Otis who developed the elevator was born in Halifax, Vermont?

The H which appears on .22 rifle shells is in tribute to a Vermont lad who licked an insurmountable problem in their manufacture?

That Paul Harris, who founded Rotary International was a native of Vermont? He went to Chicago when a young man. Harris found before he had been there too long that lonesome as he had been on a Vermont farm, he could be far more so in a big city. So it was that he started the idea of having a group of lonesome and lost souls like himself get together for lunch at least once a week.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The *Newport* (Vermont) *Daily Express* of November 14th made the following comments on one of the V. H. S.'s recent cartoons (which appear each week in five of Vermont's dailies):

"Among the 'Vermont First' items appearing from time to time in cartoon form in many Vermont newspapers including this one recently told the story about the first patent granted to anyone in the United States for an electric motor, given a Vermonter. Like every new thing, it was a crude affair compared to the hundreds of electric motors operated every day in Newport and lightening the work of many a task performed by the ingenuity of men. Mechanical development is truly a wonderful thing. From the day when man first invented the wheel to lighten his work, to the present early development of atomic power, is a long, long step, and the end to mechanical development is not yet visioned by man."

"A STRANGE TALE" — LEGEND OR FACT?

There are a great many points in early Vermont history still in the speculative and folk-lore stage and many we probably never will get settled. But there are also a few questionable bits of historic lore of the not too distant past that should be settled. One of the most intriguing is the famous case of the hill folk in that remote Vermont settlement who, as Mr. Roland Robbins writes in the last issue of *Vermont Life,* were preserved all winter by quick freeze and came out in the spring as good as new.

We are told that ten years ago, Elbert S. Stevens of Bridgewater Corners, Vermont, brought to light a strange story of human hibernation practices in Vermont long ago.

It seems that an unnamed and undated newspaper clipping pasted in a scrapbook kept by Mr. Stevens' mother told the story that a "mountain family living some twenty miles from Montpelier took six of their members, four were oldish and two younger, but crippled up — none of them could earn their vitals — and froze them up for the winter." The article was written by author "A. M." and found just above the title "Written for the Argus and Patriot" but Mr. Robbins has not been able to discover the names of the contributors or staff members of that day from the present publisher of the *Argus* or any clue to either prove or disprove the truth of the story.

The V. H. S. Inquisitors Committee would like to run this tale to earth and it offers a copy of any one of the Society's publications to the first pioneer bringing in bona fide evidence to settle this old tale.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Bible. Berwick, printed by and for John Taylor, 1793. On flyleaf: "Alanson Greene: His Book", contains family record of Alanson Greene, 1770-1845. Ancestor of Mary Greene Nye. Gift of Norman J. Greene, December 20, 1949.

Bed-cover, in summer and winter pattern. (Only one of its kind at the Museum). The material was carded, spun, dyed and woven by Mary Stevens Powers whose husband, Reverend Stephen Powers, was born in Newbury, Vermont in 1799. The donor, Ethel Horsfield of Belchertown, Massachusetts, writes that the Reverend Powers, an itinerant preacher, held meetings along the upper Connecticut River and baptized his flock in its waters.

Personal account book of Captain H. N. White, dated 1827 through 1830. Captain White carried freight and passengers on Lake Champlain between Burlington and Whitehall, according to his notes. Gift of Mrs. Mollie Randall of Pasadena, California.

Hand-engraved powder horn, gift of Mrs. Edward H. Dyer, of Rutland, Vermont, inscribed as follows:

"John Gill's Horn.
Made at Crown Point, Sept. 20, 1762.
With an honest old friend and a merry old song
And a flask of old port let me sit the night long
And laugh at the malice of those that repine
That they must swig water while I can drink wine."

Flintlock Musket and Bayonet. Musket used at Battle of Plattsburg by "Uncle" Porter Howe of West Rutland, Vermont. Bayonet was captured from a Hessian soldier near West Rutland as British troops were en route to Saratoga after the Battle of Hubbardton. Gift of Mrs. Edward H. Dyer of Rutland, Vermont.

Silver pitcher, presented Sept. 25, 1863 by the Ladies of Carlisle, Pennsylvania to General William Farrar Smith, as a testimonial of their appreciation of his "firmness, gallantry and skill as manifested in the defense of this town on the night of the 1st of July 1863 . . . . for saving us from the plundering of a rebel soldiery and from the humiliation of a town surrendered with national and local defenders within, and also for giving them occasion for the feeling of a patriotic pride in the knowledge of their own homes being successfully defended against a cruel marauding foe." William Farrar Smith, Major General, United States Volunteers in the Civil War, was born in St. Albans, Vermont in 1824. Gen. Smith was made an honorary member of the Vermont Historical Society on Oct. 14, 1902. Gift of his son, Stuart Farrar Smith of Washington, D. C.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE, 1950

Yes, we are continuing our drive for new members into 1950. And again we ask that you who have not sent in your nominations, drop us a card today. If you have suggestions for increasing our membership, we shall be pleased to receive them too.

Mr. James Dewey of Quechee (Vermont) sent us in names, addresses and dues from 22 persons — in one week!

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER

Leon S. Gay, President; Earle W. Newton, Director.

Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

VHS *News and Notes*

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

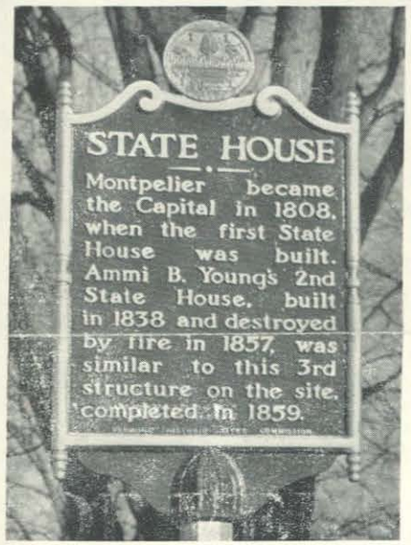
Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 FEBRUARY, 1950 NUMBER 6


STATE HOUSE
Montpelier became the Capital in 1808, when the first State House was built. Ammi B. Young's 2nd State House, built in 1838 and destroyed by fire in 1857, was similar to this 3rd structure on the site, completed in 1859.

HISTORY BY THE WAYSIDE

The illustration will give you an idea of the historic site markers which have been set up throughout Vermont by the Historic Sites Commission as near as possible to actual historic sites. These markers are not the usual bronze plaques, but are of deep green with gold lettering, surmounted by the state seal, and are set at right angles to the road, so that traffic passing in either direction can get a clear view of the text.

The purpose of these markers is not commemorative, but informative. Their basic aim is to give the traveler an introduction to the rich historical heritage of the Green Mountain State, and to assist him in making historical tours. Subjects celebrated by the signs are birthplaces and homes of famous statesmen, inventors, writers, and other illustrious sons of Vermont, battle sites, historic houses, forts, pathways and the scenes of well remembered events.

You are probably wondering why we are launching into an explanation of these plaques—in February. It is because the illustrated guide *Historic Vermont* has just been published, carrying a more comprehensive story than space on the marker itself would allow.

If you would like one, drop us a line. They will be distributed free of charge, just as long as the supply lasts.

ANNUAL MEETING—VHS

Many of you have inquired about the annual meeting. No, the September conference at Burlington did not take its place. Since President and Mrs. Leon S. Gay are in Africa, it was decided that the meeting would be held on Friday, May 12th, after their return. We'll give you full details later—but please keep it in mind and plan to attend.